

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for mapping values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, comprising:

5 an end-user ordering module operable to:

determine whether an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value  
10 may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order that corresponds to the end-user order;

15 if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one DDL, prompt a user of the end-user ordering module to collect from the end-user and supply a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

communicate the end-user order for use in subsequently creating the  
20 corresponding inter-provider order; and

an inter-provider ordering module coupled to the end-user ordering module and operable to:

receive the end-user order;  
determine whether the end-user order has a value for the additional  
25 DDL-specified attribute; and

if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically map the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.

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2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the inter-provider order comprises an industry standard Local Service Request.

3. The system of Claim 2, wherein:  
the requested service item is an unbundled port;  
the additional DDL-specified attribute is selected from the group consisting of  
a Local Existing Account Number (LEAN) and a Local Existing Account Telephone  
5 Number (LEATN); and  
the associated service item type is provided for mapping an unbundled port  
from an end-user order to an LSR.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein the DDL allows a developer of the  
10 end-user ordering module to provide for collection of additional attribute values in  
response to an industry mandated change in LSR format without necessitating the  
development of new software.

5. The system of Claim 2, wherein the value is automatically mapped to  
15 appropriate fields of multiple forms included within the LSR.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user ordering module is  
operable to relate the requested service item to a product specification and relate the  
product specification to a service item type to determine whether the requested service  
20 item relates to a service item type having a DDL.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user ordering module is  
further operable to validate that the value for the additional DDL-specified attribute  
has been supplied before communicating the end-user order.  
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8. Software for mapping values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed by one or more computers operable to:

5       determine whether an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user  
10       order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order corresponding to the end-user order;

15       if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one DDL, prompt a user of the software to collect from the end-user and supply a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

20       provide the end-user order for use in subsequently creating the corresponding inter-provider order;

25       determine whether the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute; and

      if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically map the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in  
25       connection with creation of the inter-provider order.

9. The software of Claim 8, wherein the inter-provider order comprises an industry standard Local Service Request.

10. The software of Claim 9, wherein:  
the requested service item is an unbundled port;  
the additional DDL-specified attribute is selected from the group consisting of  
a Local Existing Account Number (LEAN) and a Local Existing Account Telephone  
5 Number (LEATN); and  
the associated service item type is provided for mapping an unbundled port  
from an end-user order to an LSR.

11. The software of Claim 9, wherein the DDL allows a developer of the  
10 software to provide for collection of additional attribute values in response to an  
industry mandated change in LSR format without necessitating the development of  
new software.

12. The software of Claim 9, wherein the value is automatically mapped to  
15 appropriate fields of multiple forms included within the LSR.

13. The software of Claim 8, wherein the software is operable to relate the  
requested service item to a product specification and relate the product specification  
to a service item type to determine whether the requested service item relates to a  
20 service item type having a DDL.

14. The software of Claim 8, wherein the software is further operable to  
validate that the value for the additional DDL-specified attribute has been supplied  
before providing the end-user order.

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15. A method of mapping values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, comprising:

5 determining whether an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user  
10 order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order corresponding to the end-user order;

if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one DDL, prompting a user to collect from the end-user and to supply a value for the  
15 additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

providing the end-user order for subsequent use in creating the corresponding inter-provider order;

20 determining whether the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute; and

if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically mapping the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.

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16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the inter-provider order comprises an industry standard Local Service Request.

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17. The method of Claim 16, wherein:  
the requested service item is an unbundled port;  
the additional DDL-specified attribute is selected from the group consisting of  
a Local Existing Account Number (LEAN) and a Local Existing Account Telephone  
5 Number (LEATN); and  
the associated service item type is provided for mapping an unbundled port  
from an end-user order to an LSR.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the DDL allows a developer of  
10 software performing the method to provide for collection of additional attribute values  
in response to an industry mandated change in LSR format without necessitating the  
development of new software.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the value is automatically mapped to  
15 appropriate fields of multiple forms included within the LSR.

20. The method of Claim 15, wherein the requested service item is related  
to a product specification and the product specification is related to a service item  
type to determine whether the requested service item relates to a service item type  
20 having a DDL.

21. The method of Claim 15, further comprising validating that the value  
for the additional DDL-specified attribute has been supplied before providing the end-  
user order.

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22. A system for mapping values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, comprising:

means for determining whether an end-user requested service item contained  
5 in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the  
10 end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order corresponding to the end-user order;

means for, if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one DDL, prompting a user of the software to collect from the end-user and  
15 supply a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

means for providing the end-user order for use in subsequently creating the corresponding inter-provider order;

means for determining whether the end-user order includes a value for the  
20 additional DDL-specified attribute; and

means for, if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically mapping the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.

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23. End-user ordering module software facilitating the mapping of values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed by one or more computers operable to:

- 5       determine whether an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user  
10   order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order corresponding to the end-user order;

- if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one  
15   DDL, prompt a user of the end-user ordering module software to collect from the end-user and supply a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

- provide the end-user order to inter-provider ordering module software for use in subsequently creating the corresponding inter-provider order, such that the inter-provider ordering module software can determine whether the end-user order has a  
20   value for the additional DDL-specified attribute and also such that, if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, the inter-provider ordering module software can automatically map the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be  
25   collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.



24. A method performed using end-user ordering module software that facilitates mapping of values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, comprising:

5 determining whether an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog relates to a service item type having at least one associated developer defined label (DDL), the DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of an end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user  
10 order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation of an inter-provider order corresponding to the end-user order;

if the requested service item relates to a service item type having at least one DDL, prompting a user of the end-user ordering module to collect from the end-user  
15 and supply a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item; and

providing the end-user order to inter-provider ordering module software for use in subsequently creating the corresponding inter-provider order, such that the inter-provider ordering module software can determine whether the end-user order has  
20 a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute and such that, if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, the inter-provider ordering module software can automatically map the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.

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25. Inter-provider ordering module software facilitating the mapping of values collected in connection with creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed by one or more computers operable to:

5 access an end-user order for use in subsequently creating a corresponding inter-provider order;

determine whether the end-user order has a value for at least one developer defined label (DDL), the DDL being associated with a service item type related to an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog, the  
10 DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation  
15 of the corresponding inter-provider order; and

if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically map the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.  
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26. A method performed using inter-provider ordering module software facilitating the mapping of values collected in connection with the creation of end-user orders for communications services to corresponding inter-provider orders, the method comprising:

- 5       accessing an end-user order for use in subsequently creating a corresponding inter-provider order;

- determining whether the end-user order has a value for at least one developer defined label (DDL), the DDL being associated with a service item type related to an end-user requested service item contained in a service provider product catalog, the
- 10   DDL extending the attributes of the associated service item type by specifying an additional attribute for which a value may be collected from the end-user and supplied in connection with creation of the end-user order for the requested service item, the value not needed to complete the end-user order but collected and supplied to avoid needing to collect the value from the end-user in connection with subsequent creation
- 15   of the corresponding inter-provider order; and

- if the end-user order has a value for the additional DDL-specified attribute, automatically mapping the value from the end-user order to an appropriate field of the inter-provider order such that the value need not be collected from the end-user in connection with creation of the inter-provider order.
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